

[14 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

2425 PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 124 given in Rajya Sabha on 23rd November, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government are also considering a proposal to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to help bring mobile services in rural areas under the ambit of the USO Fund;

(b) whether Committee has given its approval; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Standing Committee in its Thirty-fourth Report, presented to the Lok Sabha on 31-7-2006 fully endorsed the proposal for extension of support from the Universal Service Obligation Fund for provision of cellular services in rural, remote and inaccessible areas. However, the Committee was of the view that the amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 is not required as the definition of telegraph' is comprehensive and sufficiently wide to cover any type of technology.

(c) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 was promulgated by the President on 30th October, 2006. The Bill has also been considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on 8th December, 2006.

Postal banks with micro credit and loan disbursal facilities

2426. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to establish Postal Banks with micro credit and loan disbursal facilities under the control of Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the recruitment norms to recruit staff in the proposed Postal Banks; and

(d) whether this proposal would affect the Post Office Savings, presently handled by the post offices all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The matter of setting up the Post Bank is in the conceptual state.

(b) to (d) Do not arise at this stage in view of (a) above.

Financial condition of HTL

2427. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial results of Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. for three years prior to disinvestments;

(b) whether financial conditions have improved after disinvestments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the financial position by Government in view of CAG's report on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The financial results of M/s HTL Ltd. For three years prior to disinvestments are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total income	Total expenditure	Profit before tax
1998-1999	359.49	350.95	8.54
1999-2000	463.08	442.41	20.67
2000-2001	465.93	463.15	2.78